

Summer, 2004

Homeland Security Update

by Dr. Larry Williams



Emergency response activities surrounding livestock issues are numerous. Federal grant monies provide the Nebraska Department of Agriculture the ability to enhance livestock emergency projects. The Department feels confident about activities and the statewide participation and collaboration across the state which are effectively positioning us for emergency preparedness. I hope you are determining where you can serve a role as a livestock professional in the event of an ag crisis. The following are current projects underway:

- The LEDRS Veterinary Corps will be meeting for the third annual seminar and for FAD training on July 27 and 28, 2004, in Kearney.
- The Sentinel Veterinary Clinics continue to meet, addressing issues such as symptom reporting, communications equipment voids, GPS coordinating, technologies available, etc. They continue to work toward developing uniform methods for information sharing amongst veterinarians across the state.
- County Emergency Response Training is being developed and will be implemented throughout the state by late May or early June. With the aid of the University of Nebraska, who is developing the training materials, a presenter and NDA staff will be

meeting with local community responders throughout the year to introduce planning tools to assist their efforts in developing individual local emergency response plans for agriculture.

- The first of five Emergency Response Trailers has been built and fully equipped for deployment to an emergency site, if needed. The trailers would provide the means to follow through with livestock protocol, from quarantine to the cleaning and disinfecting process, from a central source in emergency situations.
- The Nebraska Department of Agriculture stepped to the forefront to propose a regional Livestock Identification Pilot Project, funded via grants. The project has been introduced to the USDA and nine states in our Midwestern region. With software and technology developed by the University of Nebraska, J. D. Edwards' honors program, we are positioning ourselves in the national identification system to assure we have maximum input into the process as a means to best serve our state's livestock interests.
- A video has been produced on mass burial as a method for Livestock Carcass Disposal. The video was created to assist producers and emergency responders with selecting appropriate sites when mass burial is determined to be the disposal method of choice in a livestock emergency. Copies of the video will be available in the near future for local responders and for any interested parties.
- Training opportunities are being investigated for LEDRS members to go to other states to participate in emergency response activities in various regions, i.e., North Carolina and Washington, DC. Witnessing processes in

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other communities, and sharing our own experiences, enables participants to be more advanced in their response to emergency situations. More information to follow.

- Two new databases have been constructed. One has been built to provide emergency response 'call-down' lists for the agency's Divisions, with the intention of providing immediate, easy access to required contacts in the event of an agricultural emergency. The other database holds data from miscellaneous laboratory testing results. This information collected is above and beyond the required program disease testing we continue to obtain and record.
- Mapping is the latest tool being utilized in the Department for locating the many livestock premises across the state, and displaying different geographical or topographical details in the area. ArcView software and global positioning technology provides a visual map, which can assist with issues such as designating burial sites, locating premises in a quarantined radius, contacting livestock producers in a given area of disease concerns, and more.

replacement ewe lambs. Once we have a decision on the ewe lambs, another letter will be sent to producers and veterinarians explaining the changes. The money for this grant must be used by August 1, 2004, so encourage your producers to take advantage of this special program. Don't wait until the deadline to do testing or the funds could be gone as this is a "first come, first served" basis program.

Earlier you received a letter indicating you could use a "card" to send blood samples to Genecheck for DNA testing. Genecheck is experiencing problems with this form of submission and have asked submitters to discontinue use of the cards.

Points to remember when testing for the Nebraska Ram Project:

- Flocks need to have official scrapie tags. Contact Veterinary Services at (402) 434-2300 to obtain tags if producers have not registered their flock.
- Fee basis payments cannot be issued until the BAI office receives the yellow copy of the test chart. Send the yellow BAI copy directly to our Lincoln office, not with the blood samples.
- This special form is to be used for the Nebraska Ram Project only. Another form, VS 5-29, is available for genetic testing sheep beyond the Ram Project.
- All information needed for testing in the Nebraska Ram Project has been posted on the web @ www.agr.state.ne.us. If you have questions, you can call the BAI office at 800-572-2437.

Nebraska Ram Project Update



Testing for genetic resistance to scrapie in Nebraska flocks continues to pick-up as our producers finish lambing and start thinking about replacement flock sires. To date, we have tested over 600 rams in 160 flocks. Of the

600 rams tested, there have been 30% QQ (Highly Susceptible), 45% QR (Less Susceptible), and 25% RR (Scrapie Resistant). There are still funds available for testing and recently letters were sent to producers and veterinarians advising them that we will expand testing to more than individual flock sires. In order to fully utilize all of the funds remaining, BAI met with our Scrapie Advisory Board and decided to expand testing to include up to 10 replacement ram lambs intended for sale. A recommendation was also made to allow flocks to test up to 10 replacement ewe lambs as well. **We are still waiting for USDA/APHIS approval to use the funds for the**

Wyoming Cattle and Bison Special Order Repealed



The Special Order issued on December 19, 2003, for cattle and bison from Sublette, Lincoln, and Teton counties in Wyoming has been repealed. The Order was issued after brucellosis was confirmed in Sublette County. Since that time, Wyoming has implemented vigorous requirements for the whole state, which require adult cattle to be tested prior to change of ownership.

Effective March 31, 2004, cattle and bison entering Nebraska from Wyoming must meet the requirements from a brucellosis Class A state, which require testing of adult cattle prior to entry. In

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addition, producers wishing to import cattle and bison originating from Sublette, Lincoln and Teton counties in Wyoming must call the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to obtain a pre-entry permit and to ensure that the cattle and bison meet the import requirements.

Wyoming Commuter Permits

As a result of Wyoming losing its Class Free brucellosis status, Nebraska is now approving commuter permits for herds moving between Nebraska and Wyoming. The Commuter Permits will hopefully help alleviate some of the producer cost and animal stress involved with the movement of cattle for grazing purposes. The Commuter Permits must be applied for on a form provided by your State Veterinarian, and approved in advance of any movement. The permits are only for established breeding herds and current year offspring which are not commingled with other cattle in either state. Cattle herds which spend any portion of the current or previous year in Sublette, Lincoln, or Teton counties in Wyoming are not eligible for a Commuter Permit.

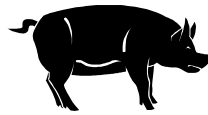
For more information on Commuter Permits or to request a Commuter Permit application, please contact the BAI at (402) 471-2351. A printable version of the application can be found at the following web address www.agr.state.ne.us.

REMINDER:

Brucellosis Laboratory

To cut down on the number of Brucellosis blood samples erroneously sent to the University or to the Bureau office, please note the samples should be sent to the Laboratory at the following mailing address:

State/Federal Brucellosis Laboratory
1947 NW Topeka Boulevard, Suite E
P.O. Box 9101
Topeka, KS 66608
Phone: (785) 235-0004
Fax: (785) 235-1464



2004 Exhibition

by Rosie Nold

For many years, the rules for the State 4-H Swine Show have stated that a pig that was previously exhibited anywhere else was not eligible for exhibition at the State Fair. When all counties were required to have terminal swine shows, due to the pseudorabies eradication plan, this was a logical rule that supplemented other biosecurity measures and it was relatively easy to enforce. However, because of Nebraska's status for pseudorabies, terminal shows have not been required by BAI for a number of years. In recent years, some county fairs have chosen to have a non-terminal swine show, due to a combination of factors including less concern about pseudorabies, difficulties in marketing fair pigs, and lack of swine production operations in the county (youth projects are really the only pigs in the county). Thus, the State Fair rule regarding previous exhibition will be removed for 2004. A similar rule for the Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition was removed in 2003. In other words, it will be acceptable for a pig to be shown before coming to the State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. Although the State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben rules are changing, we (Nebraska 4-H) still strongly recommend that county fair swine shows be terminal.

Numerous concerns about the change are recognized, including biosecurity concerns; a potential increase in jackpot shows; and concern about animal identification issues. Reasons for the change include providing additional opportunities to those youth that may have lighter weight pigs at county fairs. Also, not all counties have terminal shows now and more may be moving to non-terminal shows due to marketing difficulties, thus making the rule about previous exhibition very difficult to enforce. To help address these concerns, we still strongly recommend that county fair swine shows be terminal. We will also be adding another educational component to the swine project, a pilot "Production Pig" class will be introduced at the State Fair this year. This project will include identification and weigh-in of pigs at selected sites in the spring. Judging at the State Fair will include lean gain per day of age (which incorporates average daily gain and carcass characteristics), as well as a visual placing.

New Veterinary Field Officer

BAI has hired Dr. James Hotz to fill the veterinary field officer opening in the North Platte area. Dr. Hotz, a Gordon native, lives in Gothenburg and is in charge of the field activities in 16 counties in central and southwestern Nebraska. He has been employed by the Bureau since March 1, 2004.

UNL Poultry Surveillance Project



The University of Nebraska, Cooperative Extension, has hired Dan McGuire to lead poultry monitoring activities throughout the state. Mr. McGuire grew up on a farm north of Wisner, Nebraska, where he was introduced to raising chickens and selling eggs. He graduated from UNL in 1983 with a BA and teaching endorsements in Chemistry and Political Science, returning to the family farm in 1991 where he raised broilers until 2002. This past February, the University hired Dan, with the assistance of grant funding, to develop a poultry monitoring program. The program has four prominent goals:

1. Create a mailing list of all poultry flock owners;
2. Offer free disease testing to these flock owners for diseases such as Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle, to include necropsy of any poultry that has died due to unknown causes;
3. Develop educational materials on disease prevention and management for poultry; and
4. Monitor the impact of the program.

Mr. McGuire urges our state's veterinarians to encourage their poultry clientele to take advantage of the program he has initiated. Dan can be reached at the University at (402) 472-5625 or at dmcguire4@unlnotes.unl.edu.

New Telephone Number

Dr. Roger 'Butch' Sahara, BAI's veterinary field officer has a new telephone number. The new number is (308) 432-0594.

Pullorum Outbreak in Missouri

by Rose Foster

Coordinator of Missouri Poultry Health Programs

On March 3, 2004, Missouri was notified by the State Veterinarian of California that a shipment of baby poultry originating from a Missouri hatchery was found to be positive for salmonella pullorum. Testing of the eight hatchery supply (parent) farms began on March 5, 2004, and ultimately all farms had pullorum isolates. Most of the positive flocks were depopulated as of April 23. One Missouri farm and two Kansas farms are under the test and slaughter program with the requirement of two consecutive negative tests to release the quarantine.

The originating hatchery has a capacity of only 2,300 eggs; however, eight other states received pullorum-exposed baby poultry. All states have been notified upon the report of pullorum isolation from the parent flocks. The owner of the hatchery was an authorized pullorum testing agent and has been placed in probationary status. All eggs were dumped from the incubator and the building was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected under state supervision. The hatchery continues to operate by sourcing chicks from an out-of-state hatchery.

This outbreak occurred because the supply flocks had not been properly tested and the following problems were identified: not allowing the full two-minute time to read the pullorum test results, testing a percentage of the flock rather than 100%, and adding birds to the flocks from untested source flocks. The prevailing attitude among many small poultry producers and hatcheries appears to be that pullorum is no longer a problem and, while it is true it has been a number of years since the last pullorum outbreak, there are many, many untested flocks in the countryside and these untested flocks pose a risk of reintroducing pullorum. Future outbreaks can be prevented by strict adherence to the National Poultry Improvement Plan pullorum testing provisions.

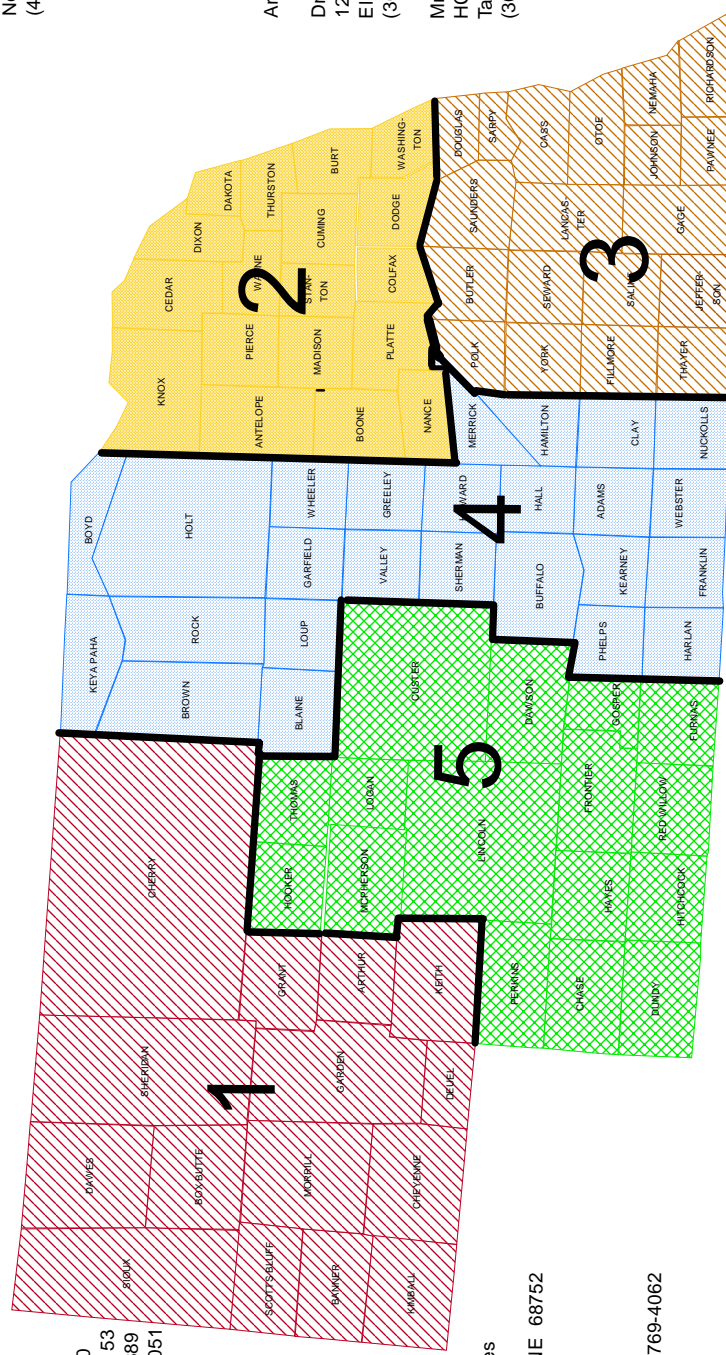
April 8, 2004

Nebraska Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry Supervisor Areas

Area 1

Dr. Roger Butch Sahara
16652 Highway 385
Chadron, NE 69337
(308) 432-0594

Mr. Les Zadina
749 Road East 30
Ogallala, NE 69153
ph - (308) 284-4889
fax - (308) 284-8051



Area 2

Dr. Dennis Hughes
84192 540 Ave
Meadow Grove, NE 68752
(402) 634-2292

Mr. Arlen Riege
85902 537 Ave
Plainview, NE 68769-4062
(402) 582-4558

Mr. John Sullivan
87017-563rd Ave
Randolph, NE 68771
(402) 283-4854

Area 3

Dr. James Stuart
1707 N. 10th Street
Nebraska City, NE 68410
(402) 873-3805

Area 4

Dr. Dane Henry
1245 Boxwood Rd
Elm Creek, NE 68836
(308) 856-4697

Mr. Lee Odenbach
HC 66 Box 59
Taylor, NE 68879
(308) 942-6204

Area 5

Dr. James Hotz
38601 East Highway 30
Gothenburg, NE 69138
(308) 537-2588

Mr. Randy Johnson
PO Box 416
Ansley, NE 68814
(308) 935-1582

John's Program

Dr. Tom Schomer
PO Box 94787
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-6830

Investigator

Mr. Jeff Wild
1631 32nd Rd
David City, NE 68632
(402) 545-2061

Dog & Cat Program

Mr. Rick Herchenbach
1911 Northbrook Pl
Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 563-1875

Emerging Animal Diseases Web Course Available

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) is offering an opportunity to participate in an animal disease web-based training course. The course will review the major exotic and emerging animal diseases, emphasizing the clinical signs and gross lesions of these diseases in various species and the role of the practitioner. Major emphasis will be placed on including exotic diseases in the differential diagnosis of various clinical presentations and the importance of laboratory support for the diagnosis of these diseases.

The course is six weeks in length, one hour per week, with the first session scheduled for May 20. It is being offered to the first fifty (50) veterinarians who respond. Each veterinarian completing the course will also receive a \$60 incentive payment for completing the course. Interested practitioners can contact the Bureau at (402) 471-6835 or e-mail the request to tammyjz@agr.state.ne.us.

Johne's - Johne's - Johne's

REMINDER: We urge veterinarians to take advantage of the web-based course to become Johne's certified. There is no cost to the vet, and includes an incentive fee for completing the course. To secure future grant monies for Johne's efforts in Nebraska, we need to utilize the current dollars available. **DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY** to better equip your practice and serve our Nebraska producers. The course must be completed by **June 3rd – SIGN UP NOW !!!**

Contact Dr. Tom Schomer at the Bureau of Animal Industry for further details or if you have questions, at 402-471-6830 or thomasjs@agr.state.ne.us.

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2341.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System. Telephone (800) 833-7352 and asking the operator to call (402) 471-2341.

*Merlyn Carlson, Director
Larry L. Williams, DVM, State Veterinarian*

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
P.O. Box 94947
Lincoln, NE 68509
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